215. Desirability of regulating appointments in service by competetive examinations.

Mr. M. Narayana Panicker (Ampalapuzha) and Mr. C. P. Thomas, B. A., L. T., (Travancore and Cochin Christian Association, Kottayam) stated that at present there were no well-understood principles for the regulation of appointments in the public service and that it was necessary to introduce a system of competitive examinations for posts in the higher grades.

Reply.—There are rules in each department for regulating appointments. This is not a matter falling within the legitimate scope of the representations which may be made by the Popular Assembly. It is for Government to prescribe such tests or qualifications as they may deem necessary in the interests of public service.

216. Hours of attendance of judicial officers in courts.

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai, B. A., B. L., (Trivandrum) said that parties, witnesses and legal practitioners were directed by judicial officers to be present at 11 A. M. in their courts, but many of them made it a point to attend office whenever they chose. This was a matter of real hardship for the removal of which some steps had to be taken. It was enough to compel their attendance at any stated hour, if they found it impossible to attend at 11 A. M. precisely.

Reply.—The present hours of attendance are from 11 A. M. to 5 P. M., and the existing rule has to be adhered to. If any instance of habitual unpunctuality is brought to the notice of the authorities, it will receive attention.

217. Rules for regulating the transfer and promotion of superior public servants.

Mr. Chithira Nal Tampuran of Vadakumkur, Vaikam (Nominated) was to have spoken on the subject. It was, however, withdrawn by him.

218. Transfer of public servants.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Ettumanur) suggested that no officer might be retained at a particular station for more than two years except at the special request of the people.

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